

Re: RM-10620

To Whom It May Concern:

I rise in opposition to RM-10620. Mr. Reich's petition before the Commission would place an undue strain on the VECs, the Commission and Commission licensees by instituting massive recordkeeping requirements for the affected parties. This would effectively negate the past 20 years of license simplification.

Furthermore, the system Mr. Reich proposes is based on the fundamental premise that time passage is a substitute for knowledge. As anyone can realize, this is sometimes a flawed premise. The mere mention of the term "active for 20 years" immediately beckons the question: Just what constitutes "active" and how would this be proven?

The Commission has gone to great lengths to standardize amateur radio licensing examinations and by granting this petition, the Commission would be forced to re-examine the complete philosophy behind examination-based licensing.

Essentially, this would result in license upgrades based on length-of-time-licensed rather than successful passage of examinations.

Therefore, I sincerely hope this petition is dismissed.

Sincerely,  
Steven E. Matda, KE4MOB  
Bristol, VA  
December 26, 2002